

Athena Post.

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Athena, Friday, June 6, 1862.

The News.

The long expected fight in defence of the capital of the Confederacy, commenced on Saturday, and was protracted until Sunday evening, the enemy, driven from all his positions, though fighting desperately through both days. Loss heavy on both sides. An account of the battle, copied from a Richmond paper, will be found in our columns.

Stonewall Jackson, having completely routed Banks and cleaned out the Valley, crossed the line of the Potomac, and at last accounts was at Williamsport, Maryland. He had captured \$200,000 worth of medical stores and 8,000 stand of arms, with an immense amount of other property. Williamsport is about 20 miles above Harper's Ferry, and we suppose about ninety from Baltimore and 75 or 80 from Washington. Whether the army would advance further was not known. The number of prisoners captured, 4,800.

The news of Jackson's victorious advance created an indescribable panic throughout the North. The city of Baltimore was at once transformed into a mob, and the greatest alarm prevailed at Washington. The Federal archives are being packed, and Abraham hangs his military cloak on the bedpost every night before retiring. The dream about the rebellion being crushed out is over. From the Northern papers our Richmond contemporaries learn that Lincoln has issued orders to the Governors of the several States for men for "the defence of the National Capital," and they, in turn, have issued the most inflammatory appeals to the people. The Governor of Massachusetts, in his appeal, says:

"Men of Massachusetts! the wily and hazardous of traitors to the people, to the government of our country, and to liberty, menace again the National Capital. They have attacked and routed Major General Banks, and are advancing on Harper's Ferry, and are marching on Washington. The President calls on Massachusetts to rise once more for its rescue and defence. The whole active militia will be summoned by a general order, &c., &c."

The Governors of the other States had issued similar orders for their whole forces "to organize and proceed forthwith to Washington," and in the meantime all the amateur regiments—among them the famous New York Seventh—had been hurried on. The New York Herald calls it "The Second Grand Uprising of the People," and says the great moving to and fro of the military "brings back forcibly the early days of the rebellion, when there was such a tremendous uprising for the defence of the National Capital."

The Northern press were much excited over the news, and the New York Herald said it "could duly be regarded as a very unfortunate event." "The rebels," continues the Herald, "have doubtless received valuable military stores, to a considerable amount, at Front Royal, Strasburg, and Winchester, and the extensive region conquered from the rebellion, and the successful labors therein of Gen. Banks of the last three months in behalf of the Union are lost in this single overwhelming dash of the enemy."

Were it not a sin to be mirthful at a time when blood is flowing like water, the country could afford to laugh heartily at the big score the Federals have received about their "National Capital," just at the very moment, too, when they were boasting to the world, through their lying press, that the rebellion was crushed and the rebel army dispersed. Jackson's victories sweep away at once the moral prestige of all the Federal successes, and in that respect at least place the "rebellion" precisely where it stood twelve months ago.

The Atlanta Confederacy insinuates that the Southern troops got the worst of the fight at Richmond on Sunday. We have not been able to find a line or word from that direction which could be tortured into such a conclusion, although the Unionists here are spreading the report all over the country upon the authority of the Confederacy. It was generally expected that whenever an engagement should take place in the neighborhood of Richmond, the Southern army would have "some killed, some wounded," and perhaps a few "missing"—indeed, it is said frequently to occur when hostile troops meet in deadly conflict, with arms in their hands loaded with "villainous gunpowder" and "ball and buck"—but it was not expected that the press and the country would be furnished with accurate lists of the casualties in fifteen minutes after the close of each day's operations. The Richmond papers, whose editors were on the field, claim a victory for each day, and to their account the reader is referred.

The Atlanta paper says in reference to Beauregard's army:—
"We learn that Corinth is evacuated. Beauregard and all the army and stores have fallen back on the Mobile Railroad, to Renss, 12 miles. There was a considerable engagement on Wednesday last between the enemy and a portion of our troops, which was intended only to cover our retreat. All our stores and arms were successfully removed."

This statement may be derived from a reliable source or not; we don't attach any particular importance to it until confirmed; but hope it is true, as the wisdom of such a move would soon develop itself. Let the intelligent reader turn to the map for a moment, and he will understand, provided he is keeping up with the Federal operations along the lower Mississippi.

Wheat crop almost a total failure in this section.

Defence of Richmond.

(From the Richmond Examiner, of Monday.)

As was generally anticipated, from the position occupied by a portion of the enemy's force on the South side of the Chickahominy, on the right wing of General Johnston's army, the battle was opened between nine and ten o'clock, A. M., on Saturday, by an attack in force of Longstreet's and Hill's divisions on the enemy's position at Bottom Bridge, near the line of the Richmond and York River railroad. The enemy, in large force, had entrenched themselves behind consecutive batteries, and felled trees crosswise in front of them, so as to render the approach of our troops the more difficult. After a musketry and cannon skirmish, during the continuance of which our brave troops withstood the full fire of the batteries, and a charge was ordered and nobly made by Gen. Hill, the 2d Florida, 8th Virginia and 5th South Carolina leading the charge up to the very muzzles of the guns under a terrific fire of grape, canister, round shot and shell, that cut them down by scores. Mounting over the first battery, they took possession at the point of the bayonet, the Yankees fleeing to the next position in the rear, which, in turn, opened its fire, and, in turn, was taken, large numbers of the Yankees being killed and taken prisoners.

After an obstinate fight of two hours the enemy fell back, leaving sixteen pieces of artillery, composing three batteries, in possession of our victorious troops. Our loss here was heavy, including several officers. The Yankee loss was not ascertained, but it is supposed to have been equally heavy. The behaviour of the troops was splendid. One company of the North Carolina regiment took one hundred and sixty-five prisoners, and brought them to the rear. The enemy's force was estimated at fully 30,000, and reinforced constantly.

After the cessation of the firing on our right wing, the enemy attempted a demonstration, across the Chickahominy, on our left wing, North of the Mechanicsville turnpike, and on the Nine Mile road. He was here gallantly opposed by Gen. G. W. Smith's division of infantry and Gen. Magruder's artillery, including Gen. Whiting's brigade of the 6th North Carolina, 11th and 2d Mississippi, and Acting Brigadier-General Colonel Wade Hampton's command of the 16th North Carolina and the 14th and 19th Georgia.

The Hampton Legion, supported by the 16th North Carolina and 19th Georgia, attempted to capture a battery from the enemy, but finding it too strongly supported, fell back, but not until after receiving its fire and giving their own in return, and forcing the enemy to resume the defensive. Our loss on the left was not so heavy as on the right wing of the army; but among the killed we have to lament several gallant and distinguished officers. On the left wing fell Gen. Pettigrew, of South Carolina, a name that should be illustrious in this revolution. He fell and died on the field. Gen. Hutton, of the Tennessee brigade, was shot from his horse and died in the arms of an aid. Col. Hampton was wounded slightly in the foot, but remained at his post. His horse was shot twice.

The fighting extended gradually from the left to the right again, about five o'clock, and continued up to near eight o'clock in the evening, when darkness put an end to the conflict, our army resting on their arms in the positions from whence the enemy had been forced.

The strength of the enemy is supposed to have been very great on both wings, and his loss proportionately heavy. The sullen booming of artillery heard occasionally in the city on Saturday morning had prepared the people for the tidings from the field. About noon it became evident that bloody work was doing along the line. The ambulances and surgeons had gone out, and our citizens remained in a state of anxious suspense, but not alarm; they knew too well the invincible army in whom they had confided their trust. Soon persons in vehicles and on horseback began to arrive from the direction of the lines, and they were eagerly surrounded by groups of citizens and soldiers, to whom they detailed the news. Their presence was marked everywhere by attentive groups of listeners. "We have repulsed the enemy!" passed from lip to lip, and a cheering beam of satisfaction lit up every face, saddened only by the record of the gallant men who had fallen and were still falling in the fight.

Towards evening the wounded began to come in from the several scenes of action, and were carried to the hospitals, the hotels, and residences. Many appeared to be only slightly wounded, barely sufficient to disable them, and laughed and chatted with the hundreds of sympathizers who gathered around the ambulances. Others, whose wounds were through the body, and more serious, lay stretched out, and some in the agonies of death.

Throughout Saturday night they were being brought in, up to yesterday morning, and all descriptions of vehicles were impressed to carry them.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE FIGHT.

We have some additional accounts of the fight on our right wing. The scene of the battle was about eight miles out on the Williamsburg road.

The artillery on our side opened about ten minutes to one, P. M., and the cannonading continued for the space of one-half or three-quarters of an hour. After a heavy fire of musketry, our troops charged upon the enemy in their entrenchments with the most devoted gallantry, repulsing him at the point of the bayonet, and driving him back until he had possession of his entire camp. The enemy, being heavily reinforced, drove us back for a little space, but could not recover his camp.

Gen. Stuart was in command of the command of that portion of it where the fight was in progress.

After the Yankees had been driven from their camp, it was thought that they were retreating down the Chickahominy, when Gen. Stuart deployed three regiments to intercept their retreat. It was found, however, that the enemy was being heavily reinforced, and the regiments were recalled.

About this time Gen. Stuart sent Lieut. Fontaine, who had attached himself to his staff as aid, to Gen. Hill, or such general officer as he might find on the field, urging him to hold his position, as reinforcements were coming up. The assurance of reinforcements gave the army impetus to our men, and the firing was continued with loud and hearty cheers. After the fight had continued for about an hour, the ammunition of some of the regiments gave out, and there was some wavering along our lines. Col. Lee, Lieut. Fontaine and Col. Moore were sent by Gen. Stuart to see to the ammunition train and to rally some of the regiments that had been thrown into disorder. The 24th Virginia, the 5th North Carolina, and some other regiments, were reformed and led into action by Col. Moore, and then put in command of Col. Smith.

About half past six o'clock General Huger's division came upon the field in gallant style, the men dashing on at the double-quick with loud cheering. The combat was now furious. There was a

continuous roll of musketry, varied by the occasional booming of artillery. The firing continued until about eight o'clock, when the enemy were driven still further back, and we remained in possession of their camp, having captured a number of pieces of their artillery, and a number of their wounded.

The King William artillery, Capt. Carter, was prominent in the fight, and achieved the most conspicuous results. Their battery was posted in the breast of a hill, and was engaged from one to half past five o'clock, when it was relieved. Their loss in killed and wounded was terrible—thirty-seven out of eighty-eight. Lieutenant William Carter was wounded in the breast by a minie ball. Second Lieut. Newman was killed, his body being literally torn to pieces by the bursting of a shell. The battery was publicly complimented in a glowing speech by Gen. Hill, who declared that its gallantry would hold a conspicuous part in history. It had rather been in command of such men than be President of the Confederate States.

The loss on both sides could not be otherwise than terrible. In the early part of the action we had taken the enemy's camp, and captured many of them and their arms, our columns suffering from the close volleys of musketry. In crossing the field to make the charge, Col. Smith's Virginia regiment was badly cut up by the enemy's fire.

Up to half past seven o'clock Saturday night we had taken about one hundred and thirty prisoners. In addition to this we learn that, late in the evening, an entire company of the enemy had thrown down their arms and surrendered themselves as prisoners. Among the prisoners taken by us were a Lieut. Colonel, a Major, and several other commissioned officers.

Our forces engaged on the right were Stuart's, Hill's, Longstreet's and Magruder's divisions, the latter having come up during the action. We had probably twenty to twenty-five thousand men in this action. The prisoners of the enemy say that the enemy had three divisions engaged on our right.

THE BATTLE RESUMED ON SUNDAY.

Public expectation was on tiptoe yesterday in anticipation of the renewal of the contest for the hard-fought field in front of Richmond on Saturday, and events did not disappoint in the least.

The scene of the fight was near the Williamsburg road. About seven o'clock A. M., the Ninth Virginia regiment, Lieut. Colonel Godwin, who had been in command of the enemy the night previous, were ambuscaded by a Yankee regiment, who rose up behind a dense thicket, and, protected thereby, poured a destructive fire into the uncovered column of the Ninth, which, however, being speedily supported, drove the enemy back and captured several pieces of artillery. The ground was so miry and unfavourable for the use of artillery that but few pieces could be brought into play, and the firing was principally by musketry, which raged furiously from the left to the centre of the line. The brigades engaged were General Holmes' and Griffith's of Smith's division, including the Third Alabama Colonel Lomax, and the Twelfth and Forty-first Virginia regiments. The advance was gradually pushed until between one and two o'clock, P. M., when our column broke the centre of the enemy, and he commenced retreating in the direction of the Meadow Bridge, abandoning his camp, occupied the previous night, and leaving in our hands large quantities of small arms, overcoats, knapsacks, &c., which were secured, and carried to the rear.

At 4 P. M. the firing had ceased, except occasional shots along the way. In the early part of the battle, Lieut. Colonel Godwin, who was in the advance of the Ninth Virginia, had his horse shot from under him, and the animal, in falling, fell upon him and seriously injured him in the breast and head. He was brought to the American Hotel. Colonel Godwin, Lieut. Colonel Alabama, who was killed in the action, while gallantly leading his regiment to the charge in support of the Ninth Virginia. The Fourteenth Virginia and First Virginia also distinguished themselves in the fight, and took a considerable number of prisoners both on Saturday and yesterday.

It is said that the enemy fired on a train on the York River carrying the wounded to the city, and that no attention was paid to a flag of truce that was sent on the field.

There was a report of the Third Alabama firing into the Twelfth Virginia, who returned the fire, and created some confusion, but was without confirmation as to its reliability.

From the numbers engaged on the side of the enemy, it was evident that he had massed heavily during the night on his left wing (our right). The enemy's strength on both wings on Saturday was estimated at 60,000, and ours at between 20,000 and 30,000, to oppose them. Yesterday his strength was at least 50,000, with heavy reserves, and our army about the same. The enemy during both days had the advantage of position and entrenchments, but lost them both. Our loss in the battle, or rather two battles, was not less than 1,000 or 1,200. The enemy's loss was as great, if not greater, being several hundred prisoners.

During the progress of the fight the line of battle was penetrated by many of the citizens of Richmond, charged with the duty of bringing off the wounded—civilians and others—who, in numerous instances, performed feats of valor worthy of disciplined soldiers.

The entire day wounded were arriving in the city, and the community remained in a state of excitement up to night, when later intelligence assured them again that the prestige of victory had not departed from our arms.

The wounded are very numerous, and they are being accommodated as the emergencies of the times will best admit.

Private dwelling stores, &c., have been offered by their owners, and they will be occupied as they are needed.

The success and progress of our arms yesterday was even more decided and satisfactory than was Saturday, and our troops were in the best possible spirits. During the day the Yankee prisoners continued to be brought in, in squads of twenty and twenty-five. They were certainly premium specimens of the "Grand Union Army," for they were the most dejected looking human beings that were ever seen. Some of them were covered with mud from head to foot, and seemingly so worn out as to be scarcely able to move through the street.

Fourteen or fifteen years old, who must have staggered under the weight of a musket. Trophies of every kind, bundles of letters and papers, were picked up off the battle-field after its abandonment by the Yankees, and brought to the city last evening.

The bodies of the several prominent officers slain in the engagements were brought into Richmond yesterday. That of General Hutton, was taken to the Exchange Hotel, where it will be embalmed and sent to his native State. That of the lamented Pettigrew, of South Carolina, was also brought in and taken in charge by the authorities.

To hundreds of thousands in Richmond and elsewhere the deaths of Gen.

urday and yesterday brought the craped badge of mourning, for hundreds of the Confederacy's brave sons have fallen in the gallant defence of her capital.

The people of Richmond have had a foretaste of this heartrending devastation, and most nobly have they withstood it, counting the loss of husbands, fathers, brothers and sons as so much price paid down in their blood for the liberty they seek.

The War in the Valley.

The following letter, furnishing the particulars of the operations of our army near Winchester, is copied from the Lynchburg Republican:

"We got to Front Royal where we met the 1st Maryland Regiment, and after a fight and a charge we captured every man of them save fifteen. Our cavalry then dashed ahead and took two hundred prisoners, at a little town between Front Royal and Strasburg, on the railroad. In all we took nine hundred prisoners at Front Royal, including one Colonel, one Lieutenant Colonel, one Major, two pieces of cannon, horses, and arms, and \$300,000 worth of Quartermaster and Commissary stores; also, two locomotives and three passenger and fifty tonnage cars. These facts are reliable, and you may rest assured thereof, as I will write you nothing but what I know to be true. We slept on the bare ground that night and the next morning very early were off at a tangent for somewhere on the Winchester road. On our way to Middletown the road was often crowded with prisoners, wagons and horses, which our cavalry had captured and were conveying to the rear. When last heard from, we had 1,500 prisoners at Winchester, and were on our way to Middletown, sending Taylor's brigade (Ewell's division) after the Strasburg wing, who captured many of them and demoralized the rest, and we hurried on swiftly after Banks down the Valley. Every few hundred yards we passed one of his wagons, left up, or broken, or, sometimes, full of baggage, stores, &c., till just this side of Newtown, after checking us awhile with artillery, he burned up thirty of the trains, and then the rout and flight became beautiful and exciting beyond degree. Prisoners were brought back by scores and hundreds, and then you ought to have heard the boys yell and make the old woods ring with uproarious joy. Three miles beyond Winchester, yesterday morning, the enemy made a stand, and the fight began about 6 A. M. In two hours we drove him pell-mell, he fled skelter off the field, and through the town towards Martinsburg. Our loss is very trifling. I think 50 will cover our dead and 150 our wounded. The enemy had, soon after the fight opened, set fire to the depot in Winchester, and destroyed all of his stores, and some say he ordered the town to be burned. At all events, some houses were set on fire, but the citizens extinguished it before great damage was done. Banks is now at or beyond Martinsburg, with our cavalry and some of our men still in pursuit. Our present expedition is a complete success. There are at least 1,200 prisoners already in Winchester, and equalling continually being taken to swell the number. We are all in the highest spirits and enjoy ourselves hugely."

The Ball Opened in South Carolina.

We find the following two items in the Charleston Mercury, of May 30:

The community, yesterday, was somewhat startled by the news that the enemy, after so many months of inaction, had suddenly landed a force, composed chiefly of infantry, but with some artillery and a small body of cavalry, in the neighborhood of Page's Point, and was briskly moving up the Stony Creek road, towards the line of the Charleston & Savannah Railroad. It was known that an advance had taken place, but no details were obtained until evening, when the following dispatch was received:—
Pocotaligo, Thursday even'g, 6 o'clock.
A Federal force was reported by the pickets as advancing upon Pocotaligo Station, C. & S. Railroad, this morning. Our force consisted of the Rutledge Mounted Riflemen, Capt. Trenholm, Capt. Blake, and the Cavalry Company, and Maj. Felder's Squadron of four companies of Cavalry. Col. Walker, the Commandant of this Military District, was telegraphed for, to Hardeeville, and arrived prior to the engagement. The enemy were held in check until the arrival of nine companies of Infantry, and a section of the Beaches Artillery, Capt. Elliott. The enemy's column penetrated as far as Old Pocotaligo, two miles from the Station. At the date of this dispatch they are retreating towards the Ferry, distant nine miles, and our troops are in full pursuit, with some hope of cutting off at least a part of them. Maj. Jefford's Squadron (three companies) was expected to reach the scene of action by the Combahee road. Gen. Pemberton, with Col. Slaughter's 51st Georgia Regiment, was also momentarily expected.

We regret to announce that two of the Rutledge Mounted Riflemen were killed in the engagement. Col. Walker had a horse killed under him. Other casualties, if any, not yet known.

From the same source we learn that the Vicksburg Whig reports that Capt. Hoskins opened his saucy little battery upon the enemy's transports at Grand Gulf, with such stunning effect that they beat a hasty retreat. That they subsequently shelled the town, and, landing a force, proceeded to break open all the houses, and stole and carried away everything movable, and of a valuable character. They started on leaving, that they intended to invade Rodney and Natchez to a Lincoln entertainment—that they were in no hurry about matters at Vicksburg—would probably wait until their fleet above should pass Fort Pillow, when they would unite and wipe out Vicksburg also. We have only to say to them, "Lay on McDuff, and damned be he who first cries hold! enough!"

The following intelligence the Mississippi of the 20th says was received by Gen. Lovell officially and is therefore reliable:

On the 28th two officers and three men of the Federal Fleet were killed at Baton Rouge by our men. The enemy shelled the city without killing any one. We have not heard the damage to houses. Captain Hoskins' battery which was sent to Grand Gulf, reported to General Lovell that they had sunk one of the enemy's transports and crippled another on Saturday and Sunday the 24th and 25th ult. The enemy came up and landed troops at Grand Gulf, and marched through Port Gibson. Our people drove them back to their boats with considerable loss, killing and wounding about one hundred.

Affairs at Nashville.

(From the Atlanta Intelligencer.)

The Cincinnati Commercial, of the 15th ult., contains the proceedings of the Trailers' Convention recently held in Nashville, and in which eighteen counties are claimed to have been represented. The meeting was in pursuance of a call for a convention of those who "are in favor of the restoration of the former relations of Tennessee to the Federal Union." From what we have been able to learn of this infamous convocation, it was in point of material, one of the most heterogeneous and motley concerns this side a regular New England bread riot, or a John Brown anniversary, in which black Dutch, and all manner and classes of quaint Yankees and free negroes are the participants. Among the names of the officers of the meeting, we notice that of "Dr. J. G. Brown, of Bradley." Now this same "Dr. J. G. Brown, of Bradley," deliberately took the oath to support the Constitution of the Confederate States not exceeding four months since, when the hypocritical villain was arrested by the proper military authorities for a supposed complicity in the bridge burning. He afterwards denounced Lincoln and his administration in unmeasured terms, and to our own personal knowledge made application for the appointment of Surgeon in an East Tennessee regiment.

We notice, also, among the names of the Secretaries that of one James R. Hood, "of Hamilton." This is the same fellow who emigrated from Buncombe county, North Carolina, to Chattanooga, about three years since. He leased the "Gazette" office in that place—kept up a dirty little paper about eighteen months—and upon the election of Lincoln, bargained himself off body and soul, to Andy Johnson, receiving the appointment of Post Master at Chattanooga as a reward for his treachery. He is a little bow-legged, squint-eyed specimen of humanity, without either brains or principle, and from the fact that this creature was selected as one of the Secretaries of the "Grand Union" fizzle, we take it that there must have been great demand for material. One E. A. Jones, formerly of Chattanooga, more recently of Atlanta, but at present one of the clerks in the Post Office at Nashville, attends the meeting and is set down as a delegate from Hamilton! The last time we remember having seen this young man, he asked us to recommend him to some official in the Confederate service where he was making application for a clerkship! So much for the smaller fry of the "Union" Convention.

Wm. H. Polk, of Maury, a notorious drunkard and black-guard, seems to have been among the most prominent of the speakers. Polk is a half brother of the lamented James K. Polk, but is in every way wholly unworthy such a relationship. He is the veritable traitor who presented himself, twelve months ago, as a candidate for Governor against Isham G. Harris. He claimed to be a better Southern man than Gov. Harris, and advocated a vigorous prosecution of the war upon the part of the South for independence. He was always regarded by many as being a genuine Lincolnite, and was run as the Union candidate. Many honest and well-informed secessionists voted for him, believing him to be a true Southern man, and hoping to conciliate a rebellious feeling which seemed centered on Governor Harris.

The time has now come when it behooves us to be scrupulous in whom we trust. Every man should be regarded as against us who is not known to be for us. He who can now sit quietly by, and watch the struggle without a word of cheer for the brave spirits engaged in it, is a disloyal man, and should be branded as a traitor by honest public sentiment. In other words, the moral of this Nashville convocation should teach us to trust no man who may exhibit a tenderfootedness in this our day of trial.

Splendid Strategy.

The operations of General Jackson, which resulted in the capture of Winchester, formed a series of movements and combinations which have not been surpassed since the days of Napoleon.—Jackson was at Woodstock. Banks, with his main body, was at Strasburg, where he was strongly entrenching himself. He had a strong detachment at Front Royal. Jackson made a demonstration against Strasburg with 5,000 men, who advanced half way to that point from Woodstock. With the rest of his army he suddenly turned to his right, fell upon the enemy at Front Royal, utterly routed him, and took two regiments. Banks, at Strasburg, hearing the firing, stampeded for Winchester. Jackson, however, was too quick for him. He immediately turned from Front Royal, suspecting what would happen, to cut Banks off from Winchester. The parties met at the junction of the Roads at Stephensburg. Jackson out the column in two. Part fled to Winchester and part returned towards Strasburg.—Jackson followed the portion that fled to Winchester, took that town and 2,000 prisoners, and sent Stewart in pursuit of the fugitives in the direction of Martinsburg. The part that fell back on Strasburg has not been heard from; but it does not go over the mountains, doubtless will be taken off by the column of 5,000, already mentioned as deployed between Woodstock and Strasburg.

Let the reader look at the map, and mark the beauty of these splendid manoeuvres. They are truly Napoleonic.—Richmond Dispatch.

Gen. Thomas J. Jackson.

All tongues are now ready to speak the praises of this victorious hero, who exhibits and applies the spur, while other Generals seem inclined to prefer the spade.

He is a native of Virginia, and a Cadet from West Point in 1846, one year later than Bernard E. Bee, who gave on the bloody field of Manassas the epithet "Stonewall," which honorably designates Thomas J. Jackson, there being several Generals bearing the name of Jackson. He was honorably distinguished in Mexico, and is now renewing gloriously his honors in defending his native State.

We anticipate and utter the wishes and expectations of all readers when we nominate him for the first vacancy to be filled by promotion.

From our Chattanooga Correspondent.

CHATTANOOGA, 2d June, A. D. 1862.

Two of the engine thieves "broke out" last night and gone glimmering. Great excitement, and Gen. Ledbetter much censured for not setting up o' nights with prisoners. Brisk trade springing up with Middle Tennessee goods being carted from beyond the mountain and sold at enormous rates, and it is generally believed some of the descendants of Esau live hereabouts. Between you and me and the Post, if the authorities don't put a stop to that business, I shall always think they ought to. Wheat round here bad, but there is promise of a luxuriant harvest of dog fennel. Nothing late from Mitchell's fleet of iron-clad "hoss-boats."

Me boy, somethin' 's up—somethin' going on—somethin' to be did. Governor Harris is here, Gen. Whitthorn is here, Kirby Smith either here or not, just as you please, and I, your correspondent, am here. But keep shady. Mum's the word. If anybody axes you tell 'em you don't know—the military commanders (d—n 'em!) having presumed to exclude the press reporters from their councils. Rest assured, however, things is workin'.

Yours, VERNAL.

P. S. I open my letter to inform you there is still nothing from Mitchell's fleet.

Later.—It's just learned they're coming. Reporters getting ready to evacuate Othello's occupation gone.

Still Later.—It is authoritatively announced they are not coming, nary time.

The Very Latest.—Courier just in from below. Fleet stalled at the Suck. Flag-boat blew up with terrific explosion, carrying away coxswain's cap and the head of the "wheel-hoss." No further particulars.

Hunter's Proclamation.

Lincoln dares Hunter's proclamation. It will be remembered that he publicly disavowed Fremont, but privately sustained, and, in a short time, reinstated him. Abe intimates that no one shall free the niggers but himself while he is President. He says:

"I further make known that whether it be competent for me, as commander-in-chief of the army and navy, to declare the slaves of any State or States free, and whether at any time, or in any case, it shall have become a necessity indispensable to the maintenance of the government to exercise such supposed power, are questions which, under my responsibility, I reserve to myself, and which I cannot feel justified in leaving to the decision of commanders in the field. These are totally different questions from those of police regulations in armies and camps."

He also indulges a gentle threat that unless the border States emancipate the slaves upon the terms already offered, he will do it for them. Read him again:—

On the 6th day of March last, by a special message, I recommended to Congress the adoption of a joint resolution, to be substantially as follows:

"Resolved, That the United States ought to co-operate with any State which may adopt a gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid, to be used by such State in its discretion to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such change of system."

The resolution in the language above quoted was adopted by large majorities in both branches of Congress, and now stands an authentic, definite and solemn proposal of the nation to the States and people most immediately interested in the subject matter. To the people of these States I now earnestly appeal. I do not argue; I beseech you to make the arguments for yourselves. You cannot, if you would, be blind to the signs of the times. I beg of you a calm and enlarged consideration of them, ranging, it may be, far above personal and partisan politics.

This proposal makes common cause for a common object, casting no reproaches upon any. It acts not the Pharisee. The change it contemplates would come gently as the dews of heaven, not rending or wrecking anything. Will you not embrace it? So much good has not been done by one effort in all past time as, in the providence of God, it is now your high privilege to do. May the vast future have not to lament that you have neglected it. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this nineteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-sixth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President,
WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

Burning of Cotton.

We are permitted to publish the following extract from a letter received by a gentleman of Augusta, Georgia:

"I hear that Hampton's crop of Cotton on two plantations on the Mississippi, has been burnt, and their other crops may also be destroyed. They plant generally 4,000 acres, but this season they have not planted an acre of Cotton."

The Federal "Victories" in Europe.

The people in Europe are beginning to see into the great "victories" heralded by the Yankee papers. The Cork (Ireland) Reporter, in noticing the news brought by the arrival of one of the steamers from New York, says:

"Her news will be found in our telegraphic report. From the particulars which we have been able to collect by the best informed of the passengers who landed, we arrive at the conclusion that the stories of the Northern or Federal so-called victories were little more than exaggerations of the grossest description; that the Southerners have more than held their own, and have placed the Northerners in a fix, which it will be a rare chance for them if they are able to get out of.—Passengers by the Niagara, who so far as we could judge, had no particular interest in 'bearing false witness against one's neighbor,' have told us that the articles in the New York press, as to the victories of the Federals, are utterly and entirely incorrect."

The Memphis Appeal learns that the Federal soldiers who were captured by Col. Morgan at Pulaski, a short time since, and who were paroled by that officer, made their way to Nashville, where an attempt was made by Andy Johnson and the authorities to force them to disregard their pledge and enter the service. To the honor of the private, and the eternal disgrace of the official, the former positively refused to obey.